REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 5 are pending, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. Claim 4 has been amended. The specification has been amended.

Transmitted herewith is one replacement sheet of formal drawings comprising

Fig. 5 to be substituted for the corresponding drawing sheet presently on file. In the replacement sheet, in box S404, "CUEERNT" has been changed to --CURRENT--. Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1 through 5 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,204,710 (<u>Tsukamoto, et al.</u>), alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,406,345 (<u>Hirasawa</u>). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 5 recite, <u>inter alia</u>, calculating a differential value between a <u>phase</u> component of position detection data that have been obtained based on a detection signal of the position sensor when the lens has been moved to a predetermined reference position and a <u>phase</u> component of position control data for controlling the position of the lens and corresponding to the reference position.

Hirasawa, even in combination, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1 and 5. The Official Action relies, inter alia, upon col. 6, lines 2 through 13 of Tsukamoto, et al. However, Applicant respectfully submits that such discloses, e.g., comparing the output voltage of the focus encoder 18 with a voltage corresponding to the electric limit line EL, which provides

neither a description nor a suggestion of at least the above-discussed claimed features including

the recitations of "phase components" as recited. It is further respectfully submitted that there

has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one

having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth

additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed

above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully

requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice

of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office

by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our

address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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